



Saturday Big Day For Coastal and River Cleanup

(Sacramento, CA) **Friday, September 14, 2012**

Tens of thousands of volunteers are expected to help clean up waterways from the California coast and into the Sierra. California expects more than 70,000 volunteers will help remove trash from the state's beaches at the annual coastal cleanup Saturday. Volunteers will comb more than 850 beaches and riversides throughout the state.

Eben Schwartz with the California Coastal Commission says last year volunteers collected more than 1.3 Million pounds of trash and recyclables.

This year he says volunteers may see some surprising debris, "We are anticipating that either this Saturday, or in the coming months, we're gonna to start to see more debris from the Japanese tsunami arriving on California shores."

Schwartz says debris from last spring's tsunami has already started to wash up along other parts of west coast. This Saturday is talso the big annual cleanup event for the American River.

Dianna Poggetto of the American River Parkway Foundation says volunteers will be looking for trash and invasive weeds, "We are anticipating probably 2500 volunteers out along the 23 miles of the parkway removing trash debris. Not only will they be on land and but we have divers in water as well as kayak and canoeist going up and down the entire parkway."

Poggetto says tens of thousands of tons worth of trash and debris have been pulled out of the river in recent years. The Parkway Foundation says last year volunteers spent 16-thousand hours clearing debris, pulling weeds and painting kiosks.

The State of California is hosting the Coastal Cleanup and the **Great Sierra River Cleanup**. That effort covers about 1,000 miles of Sierra rivers in 22 counties. Click here for a link to the [Great Sierra](#), [Great American](#), and [Coastal Cleanup](#) sites.